



**Office of Science and Technology Policy**  
**Executive Office of the President**  
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**The Office of Science and Technology Policy Announces**  
**New Director of National Information Technology R&D Coordination Office**  
*Dr. David Nelson to Sit at Helm of Federal*  
*Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Office of Science and Technology Policy announces the appointment of Dr. David B. Nelson as Director of the National Coordination Office for Information Technology Research and Development – the office that coordinates planning, budget, and assessment activities for the nearly two billion dollar federal Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program. As director of this office, Dr. Nelson also is co-chair of the National Science and Technology Council’s 12-member Interagency Working Group on Information Technology Research and Development.

“I am pleased that the National Coordination Office leadership continues in capable and experienced hands,” said Dr. John H. Marburger, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy. “Dr. Nelson is well suited to take the helm.”

Dr. Nelson’s involvement with the National Coordination Office actually dates back to the early 1990s, when he chaired the predecessor of the current interagency working group, then known as the High Performance Computing, Communications, and Information Technology Subcommittee. This subcommittee developed and coordinated the High Performance Computing and Communications Program. From 1995 to 2000 he also co-chaired the Large Scale Networking Coordinating Group that proposed and managed the highly successful Next Generation Internet Initiative.

Dr. Nelson joins the National Coordination Office from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, where since 1999 he served as Deputy Chief Information Officer. A certified information systems security professional, Dr. Nelson’s had the primary responsibility for the security of NASA’s information systems. Prior to joining NASA, he was Associate Director of Energy Research in the Department of Energy, leading the Office of Computational and Technology Research. Dr. Nelson also worked at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, focusing on

the science of fusion energy. A theoretical and computational physicist, Dr. Nelson earned a doctorate and master's degree in mathematics from the Courant Institute of New York University and a bachelor's degree in engineering science from Harvard University.

Dr. Nelson succeeds Ms. Cita Furlani, who served as National Coordination Office Director since October 2000.

*About the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program*

The NITRD program is the coordinated research enterprise of federal agencies engaged in fundamental research and development in all aspects of large-scale and broadband networking, advanced computing, software, and information management technologies to meet vital federal needs and sustain U.S. global leadership in science and engineering. Participating agencies include:

- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
- Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency
- Department of Defense, Office of the Director, Defense Research & Engineering
- Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration
- Department of Energy, Office of Science
- Environmental Protection Agency
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- National Institutes of Health
- National Institute of Standards and Technology
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- National Security Agency
- National Science Foundation

*About the Office of Science and Technology Policy*

Congress established OSTP in 1976 with a broad mandate to advise the President and others within the Executive Office of the President on the impacts of science and technology on domestic and international affairs. The 1976 Act also authorizes OSTP to lead an interagency effort to develop and to implement sound science and technology policies and budgets and to work with the private sector, state and local governments, the science and higher education communities, and other nations toward this end. The Director of OSTP serves as co-chair of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology and oversees the National Science and Technology Council on behalf of the President.

*About the National Science and Technology Council*

The NSTC was established by Executive Order on November 23, 1993. This Cabinet-level council is the principle means for the President to coordinate science and technology across the federal government. The President chairs the NSTC, and membership consists of the Vice President, the Director of OSTP, Cabinet secretaries, agency heads with significant science and technology responsibilities, and other White House officials.

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